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Probe uncovers p KGB 'plants' in

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WASHINGTON — Soviet spies probably have penetrated the CIA, according to preliminary findings of a year-long investigation by the agency's Office of Security.

The CIA—already wracked by security, discipline and morale problems—so far has not informed the White House or sister intelligence agencies of the conclusions, the Sunday News Journal was told from sources close to the investigation.

A former CIA station chief was brought out of retirement in April 1978 to review all cases of Soviet intelligence officials who defected to the United States. The purpose was to learn if the CIA had allowed a Soviet double agent to infiltrate the agency.

The search for one or more "moles," as double agents are called, included inquiries into the professional conduct of three former CIA directors and the agency's one-time chief of counterintelligence.

That investigation is being conducted by Cleveland Cram, retired Ottawa, Canada, station chief for the CIA, who had worked for the CIA for 24 years. He was assisted by Jack Fieldhouse, who had worked with Cram in other assignments.

Cram's preliminary findings — completed last week, according to CIA sources — are that at least four defectors "probably" were double agents deliberately planted by the Soviets to undermine the CIA.

Once accepted and approved, defectors are treated like members of the multi-agency intelligence community. In order to make full use of their knowledge defectors must be given access to U.S. secrets.

The Cram portion of the investigation, as well as the related probe being conducted by the CIA's Office of Security, is not yet complete and not all defector cases have been reviewed. Cram has not written his final report. He could not be reached for comment.

According to sources in the Office of Security, the preliminary findings have been turned over neither to the White House nor other U.S. intelligence organizations despite the national security risks involved.

When the News-Journal papers first reported the probe last June 7, the CIA denied it.

Questioned last week about Cram's preliminary report that the agency probably had been penetrated, CIA spokesman Dale Peterson said

Sources who worked on the investigation told the Sunday News Journal Cram was allowed to review all the files on major defector cases. His job was to see if one-time Counter-Intelligence Chief James Angleton, or former Directors Richard M. Helms, W. Mark Felt, Colby and George Bush had allowed a double agent to be accepted as a bona fide defector at the agency.

Colby has publicly denied he was a "mole," or a double agent. Helms has not returned a reporter's telephone call. Bush was reported unavailable for comment.

Spencer Davis of the Senate Intelligence Committee confirmed that the committee had spoken to Angleton and other present and former CIA officials regarding the "question of a mole." He said he was obviously very concerned about this.

Committee Chairman Birch Bayh told reporters last week he thought the CIA was doing everything it can to prevent the agency from being compromised.

For years, American intelligence officials had suspected a "mole" was working in the CIA at a high level, feeding false information to the American spy agency and collecting data for the KGB.

The suspicions rose above the level of speculation when "Legend: The Secret Life of Lee Harvey Oswald" was published a year ago by Readers Digest Press. That book, by Edward Jay Epstein, caused a sensation at the CIA when it was learned that Angleton had been a primary source for the author.

The book says that Angleton opposed the acceptance of Yuri Nosenko, a top KGB official, now 52, who defected to the United States in 1964. Nosenko volunteered the information that Lee Harvey Oswald did not work for the Soviets in the killing of President John Kennedy.

Angleton contended that Nosenko was a KGB plant and that if the CIA accepted him, the agency was being duped by the Soviets.

One portion of the preliminary Cram report names four defectors, including Nosenko, who are suspected of being double agents, but who were allowed to penetrate

still under active study by the CIA's Office of Security is that of a Soviet defector identified only as Colonel Runge. He came to the West in 1967 and, according to the same CIA source, "is what we think is the key to the entire defector question. We don't believe we know enough about him to say he was a double agent but it is the contrast in the way Angleton dealt with him that has us worried."

The preliminary findings chastise Helms, Colby and Bush as well as Angleton for the handling of the Nosenko case. Though Angleton was reported to be the only high-level official who opposed accepting Nosenko as a bona fide agent, some security officials believed Angleton used Nosenko to reinforce his own cover as a possible "mole."

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